passed into law, action would be taken to reorganise the Civil Judicial department so as to fit in with the altered conditions.

Jails.

21. On account of the abolition of the District Jails at Quilon and Alleppey, there was some increase in the number of prisoners admitted into the Central Prison. The administration of the latter continued satisfactory. The earnings from jail manufactures amounted to Rs. 9,700, against Rs. 10,871 in the previous year. His Highness' Government feel that there is room for the development of jail manufactures. Improved looms were supplied during the year and new presses and printing accessories also sanctioned.

Registration.

22. Eight new sub-registry offices were opened during the year; the number of such offices at the close of the year was 59. The total number of documents presented for registration rose by 6 per cent and 99 per cent of the documents were registered on the day of presentation. The receipts of the department amounted to Rs. 3,70,122 and the expenditure to Rs. 1,12,350. The percentage of expenditure to gross income was 30, being the lowest on record.

Forests.

23. Forest reserves and unreserved lands.—Twelve new tracts, with an aggregate area of 34 square miles, were proposed for reservation during the year. Six reserves, comprising a total area of 11 square miles, were finally gazetted under Section 18 of the Regulation. The forests in the Cardamom district continued to be under the control of the Superintendent and District Magistrate, Cardamom Hills. The question of transferring these forests from the Cardamom department and placing them under the control of the Conservator of Forests, engaged the consideration of His Highness' Government during the year. It has been since resolved to transfer these forests to the Conservator. The total area of the reserved forests was 2,323 square miles, and that of reserved lands 139 square miles, against 2,305 square miles and 124 square miles respectively on the last day of 1082. The increase in the area of forest reserves was not due to any departure from the policy of restricting the further reservation of timber forests, resolved upon by His Highness' Government in July 1907. The increase was due chiefly to the final notification, under Section 18, of tracts in regard to which action had been already taken, and partly also to the inclusion in the reserves of a few abandoned coffee estates which had been sold for arrears of tax and bought in by Government. Of the 12 new tracts notified for reservation during the year, 8 are intended for fuel and fodder purposes. The forest policy of Government received further consideration during the year and it was decided that forest areas once reserved should not be cancelled except for very cogent reasons, or thrown open to cultivation, and that the reservation of unproductive land and the re-stocking of such land with trees would be difficult and impracticable.

24. Forest Settlement.—The work of forest settlement was attended to by the Division Peishkars. Including the three reserves which were pending settle-

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ment at the beginning of the year, there were in all 15 reserves in respect of which claims had to be enquired into by the Forest Settlement Officers, out of which one was cancelled and two were completed during the year. The remaining 12 were pending settlement at the close of the year. The progress was unsatisfactory. The Peishkars have been asked to devote greater attention than they had been hitherto doing to this important work and to bring it to an early completion. Of the 13 reserves which had been settled in 1082, 6 were finally gazetted under Section 18, four were pending with the Reserve Settlement Officer for revision of boundaries, two with the High Court on appeal, and one with the Forest Settlement Officer, Trivandrum, for the acquisition of claims. The Acting Conservator has made the following observations in regard to the forest settlement work: "the blocks were not demarcated, before settlement enquiry began, as Forest Settlement Officers did not perambulate or inspect the boundaries and claims before passing their decisions, and this has resulted in many existing claims escaping settlement and in new claims arising by the subsequent registration of lands. Unless these defects are remedied, it is hopeless to expect the correct and efficient settlement of claims in reserves." His Highness' Government have informed the Peishkars that they view this state of affairs with grave disapproval and that they insist on the rules dated 28th August 1903, laying down the procedure to be adopted by Forest Settlement Officers, being strictly followed. The Conservator has been asked to submit proposals for revising the rules, should he find them defective in operation.

25. Fuel and fodder reserves.—Out of the existing fuel and fodder areas, 8 were notified for reservation, but one of these was subsequently cancelled. The progress made cannot be considered satisfactory. The Acting Conservator has been asked to expedite the reservation of the remaining tracts intended for fuel and fodder purposes.

26. Demarcation and survey.—74 miles of permanent reserve boundaries were cut and 356 miles of existing boundaries were re-cleared during the year, at a cost of Rs. 22·8 and Rs. 10·6 per mile. His Highness' Government have informed the Acting Conservator that they concur in his observations regarding the necessity for the preliminary demarcation of reserved lands under settlement and the permanent demarcation of reserved forests and of enclosures within them, and that they look to him to give effect to his views. No survey work of any importance was undertaken during the year.

27. Working plans.—The scheme for the preparation of working plans, on a rotation of 20 years, introduced from the beginning of 1082, in all the divisions except the Southern, was followed during the year. The Acting Conservator has brought to notice that, as the annual coupes had not been fixed with reference to the crop standing and its capability to yield the out-turn expected as per contracts entered into for the supply of timber from the coupes, much valuable timber such as teak and blackwood might have been overcut, and that, unless further exploitation of such species was stopped till a rough valuation survey in each of the working circles had been made, there was the danger of bringing about a total extinction of those species of valuable timber. Steps are being taken to explore the working circles and to determine their capability in respect of the more valuable species before further fellings are allowed. During the year under review, one coupe in each of the

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